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1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

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Mandatory Review
Case # NLJ 97-398
Document # 19

24 January 1968

MEMORANDUM: Chronology of Events Concerning the
Seizure of the USS Pueblo.

1. All times are Eastern Standard Time; for
North Korean time, add 14 hours. All information
is based on the latest available reporting.

10 January 1968

USS Pueblo arrived on station off the North
Korean coast for a 3 1/2-week SIGINT collec-
tion operation.

22 January 1968

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2200

Pueblo encountered North Korean patrol craft
PN 35 at a position approximately 28
nautical miles northeast of Wonsan and 17
nautical miles from the nearest North Korean
land mass. Pueblo was dead in the water.

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2200

2328-5053

032-off

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0624996 November 1999

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22 January 1968

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2300

Pueblo reported North Korean Navy submarine chaser PN 35, joined by three patrol craft (PN 601, 604, 606), hoisted signal to "follow my wake." Two MIGs circling overhead. PN backed towards Pueblo's bow with fenders rigged and armed boarding party.

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22 January 1968

2308

Pueblo reported "North Korean submarine chaser has ordered me to follow in its wake. Has pilot aboard. There is one North Korean patrol craft just forward of my starboard beam and one on my starboard quarter. The submarine chaser and another patrol craft are discussing situation 300 yards on my starboard bow. There are two MIGs sighted on my starboard bow, circling. One of the patrol craft is backing towards my bow with fenders rigged, and with armed boarding party on its bow, attempting to board. Pueblo all ahead one third right full rudder and departing area under escort."

2308

PN 35 joined by three additional North Korean patrol craft (PN 601, 604, 606).

2328

Pueblo reported North Koreans planning to open fire on her, and a few minutes later, sent an SOS. PN 35 was firing.

2345

032

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2345

Pueblo reported boarding by North Korean personnel. Position 39 - 24 N: 127 - 54.3 E.

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23 January 1968

0002

Pueblo ordered to follow into Wonsan.

0010

Pueblo reported three crewmen wounded and one man's leg blown off. Pueblo was requested to follow into Wonsan. The Pueblo employed no weapons. Her .50 caliber machine guns were not uncovered and no resistance was offered.

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23 January 1968

0032

Pueblo reported "have been directed to come to all stop, [REDACTED]"

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0032

Pueblo was directed to stop and reported she was being boarded. This is the second time the Pueblo reported being boarded. It is possible she was not boarded until 0032, after she came to a full stop. Alternate possibility is that North Koreans entered secure spaces at this time.

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0045

Pueblo confirmed four men injured, and one critically.

0106

COMSEVENTHFLT ordered USS Enterprise and USS Truxton to proceed to a position about 180 NM south-southeast of Pusan, South Korea.

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23 January 1968

0521

CINCPACFLT ordered COMSEVENTHFLT to place a destroyer with appropriate air cover outside a 12-mile limit off Wonsan, North Korea.

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0636

COMSEVENTHFLT directs Enterprise to proceed into the Sea of Japan, provide air cover, and position one destroyer off Wonsan to be joined by a second destroyer when available.

1015

COMSEVENTHFLT directed Osbourn to get underway from Buckner Bay to rendezvous with US TG 70.6.

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1347

CINCPACFLT directed fleet units to proceed no further north than present position and not to position a destroyer off Wonsan. (on receipt, Enterprise maintained stationary PIM [Position Impended Movement] 34-00 N 128-42 E, subsequently moved south to 32-30 N 127-30 E to gain sea room.)

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0230

Enterprise joined Higbee, Truxton and Os-
bourn, now circling in rendezvous area at
32-50 N 127-46E. Collett and O'Bannon steam-
ing for rendezvous, ETA Collett 0350 EST,
O'Bannon 1930 EST.

*23 January 1968

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